



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume I Issue 32

December 13, 2013

## **CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR LOCAL CHILDREN**

On Sunday, December 8th, members of the **Woodstock Police Department** volunteered their time to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual “Shop with a Cop” event. Each volunteer was paired with an underprivileged child to assist them with their Christmas shopping. Every child was given \$150 to spend as they saw fit and also received a brand new winter coat, boots, hat and gloves. It’s always heartwarming to see the children pick out items not only for themselves, but also purchase gifts for their parents, siblings or extended family. Volunteers wrapped the gifts while the children enjoyed eating breakfast with their new found friends.

The program is sponsored by McHenry County Police Charities. Funds are raised at the annual “Donut Run” motorcycle rally and through private donations. This year department personnel escorted seventeen children from Woodstock; together they enjoyed shopping at the Wal-Mart store in Crystal Lake and then shared a delicious breakfast donated by D’Andrea Banquets.

**Chief Robert Lowen and his wife, Debbie; Deputy Chief John Lieb; Detective Sergeant Jeff Parsons; Sergeant Dennis Leard; Sergeant Constantino Cipolla; Detective Rob Branum; Detective Shane Marshall and his wife, Marissa; Officers Jason Bernstein, Ray Lanz, Brett Muehlfelt, Mike Gustis and Mike Niedzwiecki; Community Service Officer Glen Davis; and Police Explorers Stephanie Kroll, Stephen Kroll, Andrew Yuzeitis and Alexander Gockenbach** volunteered a portion of their day to help brighten the holidays for these less fortunate children. A big thank you goes to **Detective Sergeant Parsons** who expertly coordinated the department’s participation in the event this year.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the organization may do so by mailing their contribution to McHenry County Police Charities P.O. Box 981 Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0981.

## **DOMES DOINGS!**

Renaissance Restoration has removed the old metal roof and flag pole from the courthouse dome and found the structure to be in great shape despite years of rain entering the interior framing members. They will install three-eighths plywood sheathing to create a smooth surface for ice/water shield and the installation of the new copper roofing. The copper roofing will not be installed until the weather is nicer. In the meantime, all of the vertical pillars on the dome will be removed and brought to a shop where the paint will be stripped, new wood/epoxy milled and installed where needed, and a coat of primer will be applied until they are reinstalled in the Spring of 2014.

## **WHAT’S HAPPENING IN WOODSTOCK...**

### **Carriage Rides on the Square:**

Friday & Saturday, December 13 & 14, 4 – 8PM

Friday & Saturday, December 20 & 21, 4 – 8PM

### **Santa is in his Hut in the Park in the Square:**

Friday, December 13, 5:00-7:30PM

Saturday, December 14, 2:00-5:00PM

Sunday, December 15, 2:00-5:00PM

Monday thru Friday, December 16 – 20, 5:00-7:30PM



## **IN THIS ISSUE...**

**2 Benefits Enrollment**

**3 December Traffic Enforcement**

**4 Prepare for Winter**

**5 Rec News**

**6 Holiday Happenings**

### **FORMS R US: HR WELCOMES YOUR BENEFITS ENROLLMENTS!**

**Next Monday, 12/16/13, is the final day to submit Benefits Enrollments forms for the forthcoming year 2014!**

Please remember that if you wish to make changes to the following benefits, you must also take the steps indicated below:

- AFLAC supplemental medical insurance—you **must** talk to AFLAC representative Margie Winters (815/455-4734) to increase, decrease or discontinue this self-paid benefit
- Nationwide Retirement Systems Deferred Comp investment—requires an additional form be completed
- IMRF Voluntary Additional Contribution (VAC) investment—requires an additional form be completed
- UHC Vision insurance—requires an additional form be completed
- Credit Union participation—requires enrollment at McHenry County Credit Union
- Recreation Center membership—requires enrollment at Recreation Center

Please also be sure to indicate any changes to home address, phone number or dependent names on your Benefits Enrollment Form.

And, if you don't already enjoy the benefit of Direct Deposit, be sure to request a form to sign up for this service as well. Earnings may even be deposited in more than one account, just provide the related voided checks or deposit slips and indicate amounts desired in each.

Questions or concerns, please see either **Jill May** or **Deb Schober** in **HR**!

### **SNOW NEEDS TO REMAIN ON YOUR PROPERTY**

During the winter season, the City often gets a few complaints about snow that is pushed across the road or deposited into the street from private property. As stated in the City Code "it is unlawful for any person to place or deposit accumulations of snow from private property onto any street, road or public way in the City".

Each resident should have a designated area to store snow on their private property. This regulation has been put into place mainly as a matter of safety. Snow on the road can form into hard-packed piles which can push a vehicle across the centerline into on-coming traffic.

In addition, please,

- Remove snow and ice from the entire width of the public sidewalk surrounding your property to allow for safe passage of pedestrians.
- Remove empty refuse containers from the curb following garbage pickup.
- Help us keep the fire hydrant on your property ready for use by clearing it of snow and ice.

If you have any questions about snow removal, please contact the **Department of Public Works** at (815) 338-6118.



### **RECRUITMENT NEWS**

Interviews have been scheduled with 8 candidates for **PT Library Desk Assistant** for early next week.

Interviews with 3 candidates for **Telecommunicator** at the **Woodstock Police Department** were held this week. Candidates with required qualifications were chosen from previously-submitted applications for this role.

Welcome to **Marvin Myers**, who began work this week as **LPT Facilities & Events Workers** at the **Woodstock Opera House**.

### **SANTA CLAUS HAS COME TO TOWN**



The holidays will be a little more cheery with this beautiful painting of Santa, created by participant Jack Vidales. The **Woodstock Recreation Department** held the Canvas Creation class on Saturday, December 10 where **Heather Muse, Owner of MUSE ART** instructed the group of ten, step by step, through this jolly painting.

Additional Canvas Creation classes are being planned for Feb 8 and March 15 through the Recreation Department.

### **DECEMBER TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE**

The **Woodstock Police Department** has announced that December's Special Traffic Enforcement Initiative will target Posted Speed Limit violators.

The primary goal is to reduce the incidence of speeding related motor vehicle crashes and the resulting injuries and fatalities through highly visible increased enforcement. Equally important is the continuing education of the motoring public by encouraging mandatory compliance with posted speed limits.

December 17<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of the nationwide "*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*" campaign. There will be mass media efforts at the Local, State and Federal levels during the entire month of December. WPD will participate in the enforcement campaign by holding saturation DUI patrols at various times during the month.

For further information or questions regarding this special traffic enforcement initiative, please contact **Sergeant Dennis Leard** by phone at 815-338-2131 or by email at [dleard@woodstockil.gov](mailto:dleard@woodstockil.gov).

Keep the holidays bright for you and your family – don't drink and drive!

### **MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...**

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 – City Council, 7PM,  
Council Chambers

### **PPREPARE YOUR VEHICL FOR WINTER**

- Winterize your vehicle or have your vehicle serviced by a reputable dealer, garage or mechanic.
- Check your wipers, tires, lights and fluid levels regularly. Make sure the brakes and transmission are working properly.
- Lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent them from freezing.
- Prepare a **Winter Storm Survival Kit** and carry it in your vehicle. A kit is important even for short trips. If you have an accident or vehicle breakdown, you may be waiting several hours for assistance to arrive.

#### Winter storm survival kit for travelers

- Cell phone and charger
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Knife
- High calorie, non-perishable food
- Water
- Extra clothing & boots to keep dry
- Water-proof matches
- Sack of sand (or cat litter)
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope with loops (avoid chains and hooks if at all possible)
- Booster cables
- Water Container
- Compass and road maps



### **EMPLOYEE FINANCE FAIR OFFERS EDUCATION AND MORE!**

Employees may be “another year older”, but hopefully are less likely to be “deeper in debt” following the Employee Finance Fair that took place this week at City Hall.

**HR Benefits Analyst Jill May** coordinated this highly beneficial event, that offered presentations by IMRF pension representative Jon Renner, as well as Nationwide Retirement Systems deferred compensation representative Brian Miller. Individual appointments with these providers were very popular and available times completely filled by employees hoping to maximize investments and fully consider retirement options.

A wide variety of materials highlighting services of area banking facilities, as well as detailed materials from IMRF and Nationwide Retirement Systems, were also provided to interested employees. Anyone who might have missed this year’s Finance Fair activity is always welcomed to visit **HR** to obtain materials and/or discuss these retirement-oriented benefits. For staffing and succession planning, it’s always helpful to share retirement plans with supervisors as soon as these plans might become known.

### **QUOTE**



The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



### ***TAE KWON DO KICKS ON***

Fall *Tae Kwon Do/Karate* classes ended this week with a demonstration at the **Rec Center**. John Byard, a 5<sup>th</sup> degree Black Belt, teaches five classes per week- two Beginner, two Yellow Belt and up/Adult, and a three and four year old with parent class in the multi-purpose room at the Rec Center. This program is offered throughout the year for kids and adults.

This session, Mr. Byard had a total of fifty-nine students enrolled. In addition to teaching self-defense, the program helps students gain positive self-image, confidence, discipline, and agility while improving overall fitness.

The next session of Tae Kwon Do will start the week of January 20. Information for this and other classes will be in the Winter Spring City Scene that will be mailed the last week in December.

